

THE MIKOYAN MISSION TO CUBA: Statement Made by the First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. (Mikoyan); New York City, November 2, 1962. (Excerpt)¹

Yesterday, after we² had arrived in New York, we called on U.N. Acting Secretary-General U Thant and had a long conversation with him, during which we touched upon matters concerning the normalization of the situation in the Caribbean in the interests of strengthening the countries of this region.

We have agreed with U Thant that the conversation was a useful one. At dinner last night, we had Mr. McCloy and Mr. Stevenson, with whom we were exchanging views as to how we could sooner and better implement the provisions contained in the messages of Chairman K. S. Khrushchev and President J. F. Kennedy on the elimination of the dangerous situation and the normalization in the Caribbean, and in the proposals of Premier Fidel Castro, which comprise five well-known points.³

These proposals of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, aimed at insuring the security of Cuba, are supported by the Soviet Union, which considers them just.

It is with great pleasure that I am looking forward to coming to the friendly Cuba, where I already was in February, 1960,⁴ and saw tremendous enthusiasm and unity of all working people of the Republic of Cuba, headed by the hero of the Cuban people, Fidel Castro.

I have heard that the American press and radio and, in particular, today's newspapers venture absolutely groundless guesses and fantasies about the purpose of my visit to Cuba.

I am going there for a friendly exchange of views with our close friend, Premier Fidel Castro, on questions of the international situation.

¹ *Ante*, doc. III-79.

² *Ante*, docs. III-83, 85, 87, and 89.

³ *The New York Times*, Nov. 3, 1962.

⁴ I.e., Mr. Mikoyan and First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov.

⁵ See *ante*, doc. III-92.

⁶ See *American Foreign Policy: Current Documents, 1960*, p. 127, footnote 10.